

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Office Action of March 14, 2011 has been carefully considered. Claims 1, 3-7, 9-12, 25-30 and 32-34 are pending in the application, with claims 1, 7 and 25 being the only independent claims. Claims 1 and 7 have been amended to properly recite the location of the top cover. Claims 11 and 32 have also been amended. Claims 2, 8, 13-24 and 31 have been previously canceled, without prejudice or disclaimer.

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 1, 3-7, 9-12, 25-30 and 32-34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement. Specifically, the Examiner states that he fails to understand how a siphon tube can be coupled to the reservoir cover and that such would render the device inoperative since the tube extends into the annular space between the tub and the basket. The Examiner questions how water would siphon upwards.

Claim 1 recites that a reservoir is removably coupled to the top cover of the washing machine. As discussed in paragraph [0020] of the present specification, a reservoir 130 is provided for dispensing wash additives such as bleach. A “wash solution” is provided by mixing fresh water with the additive. In one embodiment, the delivery of the diluted additive is accomplished by a “siphon action” and conduit 132 is a “siphon tube” coupled to the reservoir 130. Fig. 2 clearly shows that the conduit 132 is coupled to an upper portion of the reservoir 130. According to paragraph [0020], in

another embodiment, the reservoir 130 includes a removable cover 131, and the conduit 132 is a siphon tube coupled to the removable reservoir cover 131.

According to paragraph [0021], the removable reservoir cover 131 includes “an upper siphon fitting 133”, which works with a lower siphon fitting 135. In other words, the upper siphon fitting 133 is part of the removable reservoir cover 131.

The principle of “siphon” is well known in the art. In view of this, it is respectfully submitted a person skilled in the art would readily understand how the conduit 132 works as a siphon conduit in the inventive device by, for example, being fluidly coupled to the upper siphon fitting 133 of the reservoir cover 131. Therefore, the siphon tube coupled to the reservoir cover as is recited in the claims does not render the device inoperative.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully submits that the application is in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

General Electric Company

By: /Douglas D. Zhang/
Douglas D. Zhang
Patent Attorney
Registration No.: 37,985

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GE Global Patent Operation
2 Corporate Drive, Suite 648
Shelton, CT 06484
203-944-6755